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Montana State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee

MONTANA SOICC

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Winter, 1986
Volume Three - Number Three

MONTANA SOICC NEWSLETTER

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ICDM IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Since 1981, the National Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (NOICC) has conducted Improve Career Decision Making (ICDM) counselor in-service programs. The ICDM program trains counselors to help individuals make career decisions based on the best available labor market data and resources. In addition, the program is designed to promote greater cooperation between school counselors, colleges, job training programs, Job Service offices, vocational rehabilitation programs, and the producers and users of labor market information.

The Montana SOICC applied for and received an incentive grant from NOICC to sponsor at least two ICDM training sessions. These sessions have tentatively been scheduled for April of 1986. One session will be held in Missoula, and one in Billings. Travel and subsistence expenses will be provided by the SOICC for school personnel only. More information regarding final scheduling will be provided in February and March of 1986.

For more information about these in-service training programs, contact Bob Arnold, Montana SOICC Program Officer at (406) 444-2741.

WORKING WOMEN OF THE 80'S

The number of working women in the U.S. rose by 870,000 between the first and second quarters of 1984. There were 46.1 million women with jobs during the second quarter of the year, 2.5 million more than at the same time in 1983.

Overall, 54% of all women now participate in the labor force. Sixty-eight percent of women 25 to 54 are now working. And 71.3% of all employed women are working full time.

Six of every 10 mothers with preschool or school-age children are in the labor force. A record 19.5 million women with children under 18, including 8 million whose youngest children are under six, are working or looking for work. This compares to 1970, when only four of 10 mothers (12.1 million) were in the labor force.

Women will account for nearly two-thirds of the labor force growth from 1982 to 1995.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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FANTASY OR REALITY IN MONTANA'S JOB MARKET?

People are fascinated by the future. Books on emerging careers and trends in the economy, politics, and social life are in strong demand. Montana's beauty and splendor allow for an even greater fantasy of a grand future, but the Montana job market information sheds a dull light on many youth aspirations. Montana's job earnings place low when compared to other states - only eight other states had a lower average annual pay in 1984.

For many jobs, there is a higher supply of workers than is needed. A restaurant advertised for a dishwasher and had 100 people lined up at their door the next day wanting the job. One post office has 900 applicants on file for the occasional job openings that exist.

The number of blue collar occupations is declining nationally, but the strength of Montana's natural resources allows for many blue collar jobs to continue and often expand. One area with potential job growth is precious metal mining. This industry has numerous blue collar occupations. Several western Montana gold and silver mines are in the planning stage, and may eventually employ 100 to 300 workers for 15 to 20 years. The mines are near Helena, Livingston, Butte, and Polson, and two are in northwestern Lincoln County. A planned platinum mine located southwest of Billings has a potential for 375 workers for 25 years.

Together, these mining projects could represent well over 1,000 new jobs for a long period of time. Actual mining operation would follow two years of testing and construction. The construction period would also employ a large number of workers. Numerous job applicants will apply for all the projects, making competition keen.

Several of the larger blue collar mining occupations and general job descriptions are listed below:

SEPARATING, FILTERING, CLARIFYING, PRECIPITATING, AND STILL MACHINE OPERATORS AND TENDERS: Operate or tend machines to extract, sort, or separate liquids, gases, or solid materials from other materials in order to recover a refined product or material.

CRUSHING, GRINDING, AND MIXING MACHINE OPERATORS AND TENDERS: Operate or tend machines to crush, grind, or mix a variety of materials, such as coal or stone.

WELDERS AND CUTTERS: Use hand welding and flamecutting equipment to weld together metal components.

LOADING MACHINE OPERATORS, UNDERGROUND MINING: Operate underground loading machines to load coal, ore, or rock into shuttle or mine car or onto conveyors.

SHUTTLE CAR OPERATORS: Operate shuttle cars in underground mine to transport materials to mine cars or to conveyor.

TRUCK, TRACTOR, GRADER, DOZER, AND SCRAPER OPERATORS: Operate industrial trucks or tractors to move materials, or operate power vehicles equipped with blades to remove, distribute, level, or grade earth.

ELECTRICIANS: Install, maintain, and repair wiring, electrical equipment, and fixtures, insuring that work is in accordance with relevant codes.

TRUCK AND DIESEL MECHANICS, MAINTENANCE REPAIRERS, AND MACHINERY MAINTENANCE MECHANICS: Perform work involving maintenance skills to keep motor vehicles, machines, mechanical equipment, and/or structure of an establishment in repair.

MINING ENGINEERS, INCLUDING MINE SAFETY: Determine location and plan the extraction of coal, metallic ores, nonmetallic minerals, and building materials, such as stone and gravel.

EARTH DRILLERS, EXCEPT OIL AND GAS: Operate a variety of drills to tap subsurface water and salt deposits, to remove core samples during mining exploration, and to facilitate the use of explosives in mining or construction.

BLASTERS AND EXPLOSIVES WORKERS: Place explosives in holes or other spots and detonate the explosives to loosen, remove, or displace earth, rock, or other materials.

ROOF BOLTERS: Operate self-propelled machine to install roof support bolts in underground mine.

SOURCE: John Zavalney, Research & Analysis, Montana Department of Labor & Industry

EMPLOYMENT IN MONTANA'S
MINING INDUSTRY
1976-1984

Type of Mining	1976 Jobs	1980 Jobs	1982 Jobs	1984 Jobs
Gold & Silver Ores	90	406	728	834
Metal Mining Services	234	213	83	192
Total Mining	324	619	811	1,026

CRITICAL NEED FOR TEACHERS PREDICTED

The nation faces a critical shortage of elementary and high school teachers over the next 10 years. Educators predict that an estimated one million new teachers will be needed by 1990.

The problem could reach crisis proportions, according to education analysts and teachers' union officials, because fewer college graduates are becoming teachers, elementary school enrollments are expected to increase, much of the existing teaching force is nearing retirement age, and younger teachers are defecting to more lucrative fields.

"As the decade grows, the demand goes up but the supply is going way down," said Vance Grant, Chief of the Statistical Information Office at the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). NCES figures show that the number of people receiving degrees in education was essentially cut in half between 1972 and 1982.

The shortage threatens to erode recent educational reforms while posing a painful dilemma for state legislatures. Pressed for the need to recruit more teachers, state politicians also must meet the competing public demand to raise teaching standards as a way to improve student performance.

Some school districts have begun hiring classroom instructors without traditional teaching qualifications. The Los Angeles Unified School District, for example, hired 167 "teacher-trainees"--college graduates with no teacher training--to meet their need for instructors in the fall of 1984.

Education experts blame the impending crisis on demographic factors and changes in the labor market over the last two decades. A small "baby boomlet" of children born in the 1970s is entering the classrooms, and teachers of the post-World War II generation--many of whom went to college on the G.I. bill--are in their fifties and nearing retirement.

Increased job opportunities for women and blacks have deprived the teaching field of its most dependable pool of recruits. "There was a time when women and minorities, if they wanted to enter a profession, had to go into teaching," said Bella Rosenberg of the American Federation of Teachers.

The teaching field is also plagued by mass defections by younger instructors, according to studies by the Rand Corp. and the American Enterprise Institute.

By most estimates, up to half of new teachers leave the job within five to seven years, usually expressing dissatisfaction. Even more discouraging to educators is the exodus of the most qualified teachers, those with the best test scores and school performance.

SOURCE: Keith B. Richburg, Washington Post

Kate Kahle, Editor
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Robert N. Arnold, Program Officer
Montana SOICC

DID YOU KNOW. . .?

Between April 1, 1984 through March 31, 1985, there were a total of 1,150 discharged military personnel that planned to return to Montana.

Breakdown of Military Returnees to Montana by Military Service

Army	398
Navy	305
Air Force	338
Marines	108

Please contact the Montana SOICC if you are interested in these figures by county in Montana.

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